

Jonestown United Methodist Church

OCTOBER 2026 Newsletter

From the Pastor: October 2026

"A Harvest That Matters"

Dear friends and neighbors,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

October is one of those months that invites us to look around and pay attention.

The days grow shorter, the fields change, and the colors of autumn begin to appear across our hills and neighborhoods.

After the activity of summer and the new routines of September, October seems to settle into a quieter rhythm.

It is also a season of harvest.

For generations, people have understood that a harvest does not appear overnight.

What is gathered in the fall began much earlier, with planting, work, waiting, and patience.

Our lives are much the same.

Much of what becomes meaningful in life grows slowly.

Friendship grows through trust.

Families grow stronger through patience and forgiveness.

Faith deepens as we learn to trust God.

Some of the most important things we are growing cannot be measured or placed in a basket.

They are found in the kind of people we are becoming.

The Bible says: "Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness." (James 3:18)

I love the picture in those words.

We are always planting something through the way we live.

Our words, attitudes, and actions all plant something.

A harsh word can remain in someone's heart for a long time. But so can a word of encouragement.

A small act of kindness may seem unimportant to us, yet it can become exactly what another person needed that day.

Some of the best things God grows happen quietly.

I have seen this in people who remain kind through difficult times and faithfully care for others.

Sometimes simply being there means more than having the right words.

These are the kinds of things worth cultivating.

October gives us a natural opportunity to pause and ask:

What is growing in my life right now?

Am I becoming more patient?

It is a simple question, but it can help us notice what is taking root in our hearts.

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PONDER with
Lewis...
DO GOOD

Micah, in chapter 6:6-8 summarizes the laws God gave through Moses, "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offering, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O man, What is Good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Note: kindness in the Hebrew includes the idea of loyalty and faithfulness to God's promises)

Peter in I Peter chapter 3 addresses doing good in some verses: vs13, "Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?" vs17 "For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil." (Note: If God's people live according to His word, they will suffer not for doing evil, but for doing good.)

Bill Crowder (a staff member and writer for "Our Daily Bread", gave a great illustration of a person doing good and the consequences in an article I read.

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November Newsletter

Deadline: October 15th

Jonestown United Methodist

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We all have words, choices, and moments we wish we could change. But the good news is that God is not finished with us. There is still time to plant something better: to forgive, repair a relationship, encourage someone, return to prayer, or begin again with God.

The Bible gives us this encouragement: "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy." (Psalm 126:5)

Not every season of planting is easy.

Some seasons of life require us to keep loving, praying, and doing what is right even when the road is difficult and the results are not yet visible.

Faith does not promise that every difficult season will quickly become easy.

But it reminds us that sorrow and struggle do not have to be wasted.

God can bring something meaningful even from seasons we would never have chosen.

That is one reason autumn can speak so powerfully to us.

The beauty we see in October comes at a time when the natural world is changing. Something is ending, but the story is not over.

Many of our senior members understand this better than most.

Life has seasons.

Life brings seasons of beginning and finishing, of raising children and watching grandchildren grow, of working and eventually retiring.

As the years pass, we also learn to adjust to changes in our strength and pace of life.

Each season has its gifts, and each season has something to teach us.

Our worth does not disappear when a season changes.

God's purpose for our lives is not limited by age, job title, physical strength, or how much we can accomplish.

Even as life changes, we can still encourage, share wisdom, pray, love-and sometimes those quiet gifts become the richest harvest of all.

This matters for our wider community as well.

We live at a time when people can easily become separated by opinions, politics, generations, and backgrounds.

Communities grow stronger when neighbors care for one another, listen before judging, and make room for those who feel alone.

That kind of life does not usually attract much attention. And I believe God uses it.

As October unfolds around us, I hope we will enjoy the beauty of this season.

Take time to notice the changing trees.

Give thanks for the people who have helped shape your life. But perhaps we can also look inward for a moment.

What are we planting through the way we live today?

What kind of harvest do we hope our lives will leave behind?

Years from now, people may not remember everything we accomplished. But they may remember that we listened, prayed, showed up, and chose kindness.

Perhaps that is one of the most beautiful harvests a life can produce.

At Jonestown United Methodist Church, we want to be a community where those kinds of seeds are planted: faith, compassion, patience, friendship, and hope.

Whether you have been part of our church for many years, have been away from church for a while, or are simply wondering whether there might be a place for you, you are welcome.

You do not need to have everything figured out before you come.

You simply need to come as you are.

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---From the Pastor cont' page 2

Our Sunday services are: 8:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship

11:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship

We also gather each Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. for “Conversation with the Father,” a time of prayer, reflection, and spiritual conversation.

If you or someone you love is in need of prayer, encouragement, or pastoral care, please feel free to contact the church office at 717-865-4369.

As we enjoy the beauty and abundance of October, may God help us recognize what truly matters, plant what is good, and leave behind a harvest of faith, kindness, and love.

With Christ's love,

Pastor An

Jonestown United Methodist Church

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES: Our ladies' group will be going out for lunch in October on the second Tuesday, October 13th at 12 noon. We'll be going to Mooses Landing Zone. Look for the sign up in the narthex. All ladies are welcome. See Pam Gray if questions. In December we will have our Christmas luncheon at the Wetlands on Dec. 8th.

We support the NL Clothes Closet at the old Jonestown Elementary School. Thank you for your clothing donations put in the container in the narthex. The closet serves those who need a little extra help and are financially eligible and from the NL school district. They are open the first and third Tuesdays from 10-12, and Thursdays from 4-7, two Mondays (second and fourth) 10-12, and one Saturday (third) a month from 10-1:00, which is Community Shopping Day. This means it is open for any Northern Lebanon resident to shop for a monetary donation. Come on out to shop then or look around. You are welcome! We have lots of nice Fall and Winter clothes. See the sign in front of the building (former Jonestown Elementary School) for further information. Come in at Door 13.



LADIES NIGHT OUT will be on Friday, October 2, starting at 6 pm until 9. Come and go at your convenience. We will meet in the classroom next to the nursery. Bring any craft or project you would like to work on. Puzzles and coloring books are available too. Join us for some fellowship and fun. Pizza is ordered for those wanting dinner. Call Karen Bene if you have questions at 717-673-2833. Hope you can join us.



King's Kids: On Sunday October 11, 2026, we will resume King's Kids. It will be held from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. The theme is "Super Heroes."

RELEASED TIME:

Watch for information regarding its resumption in October for the 2026-2027 school year. Check on the table in the Narthex.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES;

Nancy Rautzhan: Adult Bible Study

Gary Miele: Youth

John Hall: Adult

Brenda Rudy: Children

HOMEcoming SERVICE There will be a Combined Service at 10:00am on Sunday October 18, 2026. It will be followed by a luncheon in the fellowship hall. (No Sunday School.) Please sign up at any of the entrance doors and indicate how many will be coming!

LOOKING AHEAD! JONESTOWN CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING will be earlier this year, on November 21st, the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

OCTOBER MISSION PARTNER –

Lebanon Rescue Mission Special Offering
Envelopes will be available during October in the
narthex and on the windowsills.
Envelopes for NL Ministerium are always available.

AUGUST FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Budgeted amount per month = \$12,500
Actual expenses for August = \$12,100
Income for August + \$10,600

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

**Jonestown UMC Service at
Free Noon Meal will be on**

OCTOBER 2, 2026

JUMC is responsible for preparing the noon meal the first Friday of each month through volunteers from our congregation, adults in the winter, fall, and spring, and our Youth Ministry in the summer. Currently we make about 100 lunches distributed to those in need noon-1pm. If you are interested in helping, contact Howard Lee (717-228-7249) or Jodi Yeagley (717-306-8854)

Free Food Box Distribution

OCTOBER 10, 2026 @ 1PM

Area United Methodist Churches have been distributing food boxes over the last several years to needy families in our area. You can help prepare for assembly unloading trailers of food Thursday 10/8 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 10/9 and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday 10/10 at 1PM. (Setup at ~12:30PM)

PRAYER CHAIN



Friends and members of our church may Activate the Prayer Chain by calling the pastor or one of the team leaders indicated by a star (*).

Team 1: Lewis Artz
(717-865-3447)

John & Nancy Rhen (717-865-4317)

Teri Light (717-813-8347)

Gary Miele (717-383-2941)

Team 2: Jeff & Diana Waltermeyer
(717-673-9513)

Rick & Wendy Kline (717-865-4363)

Pam Gray (717-865-3997)

Team 3: Doris Crouse (717-865-5554)

Judy Mowry (717-279-0809)

Kay Horner (717-865-5538)

George/Nancy Rautzhan (717-865-3061)

*Lewis Artz (717-865-3447)

*Diane Waltermeyer (717-673-9513)

*Doris Crouse (717-865-5554)



WANTED: Individuals willing to learn some simple steps to follow and perhaps add some creativity to our Live Streaming Worship Services and Website updates.

We are always looking for persons willing to provide relief for those regularly serving in this area when they need a break or will be away OR share the load on a Sunday Morning with set-up or trouble shooting when needed.



CARE COORDINATOR: Thanks for contacting those we don't see in church to let them know we miss them. Calls or cards mean a lot, especially to those who are home bound or in nursing homes. Frank Sebastian continues in the nursing home and would love to hear from you

or see you if you can visit, in the Lebanon Nursing Home on Tuck St. in Lebanon. Cards can be sent to home addresses, as they can for Lewis Artz, Phil Lingle, Nancy and John Rhen, Doris Crouse, Bonnie Rickard, Peggy Fortna, and Linda Lee. A list of these addresses for all is on the JOY table in the narthex. All would appreciate knowing you are thinking of them! Don't forget the Care Booklets in the circular rack available for you to take. Since we are all members of a "Care Team", the Care Coordinator will contact members of the church when a need arises to see who can help with a meal or any other need. If you would be willing to make and deliver a meal to someone when the need arises, please let Pam Gray know, so she has a list of who to call to help. Also if you know of a care concern, please also contact her.



JOY Food Pantry: JOY clients shop once a week either on a Tuesday from 10-12, Thursday from 4-7, or Friday from 10-12. Thank you all for your generosity in donating to JOY. We donated over 120 lbs. this past month. Some additional items needed at this are: rice, corn and red beets, baked beans, canned pasta, chunky soup, Ramen soup, cream

soups, canned fruit, canned chicken, spam, tuna, juices, paper towels, dish liquid, other cleaning supplies, and shampoo. A complete list of items needed is on the JOY table to take along or check the website at joypantry.org. Please mail monetary donations to: Caring Cupboard, P.O. Box 71, Palmyra, PA 17078. Please put on the memo line that this is for the JOY Pantry. Thank you for your generosity, particularly at this time of lost jobs and food shortages!

CELEBRATE OUR GUESTS: We have seen a number of guests joining us for worship and at a variety of events sponsored by the ministries of Jonestown Church. There are some small bags to be handed out to our guests that include a brochure about our church, a refrigerator magnet with the contact information for our congregation, etc.

In addition to personally welcoming and getting to know people you are either meeting for the first time or are getting re-acquainted with, we are inviting those normally attending to share one of the guest bags while introducing yourself and personally welcoming guests/visitors.

Church Events

Weekly Events:

- Tuesdays 6:30pm-Conversations with Our Heavenly Father
- Tuesdays 5:30pm-The Rock Band
- Sundays 10:15am- praise Team Rehearsal
- JOY Pantry Tuesdays/Fridays, 10:00am-Noon, Thursdays 4:00pm-7:00pm

OCTOBER EVENTS:

- October 2 Fri 10:00 LCCM Noon Meal
- October 2 Fri 6-9pm Ladies Night Out
- October 9 Fri 6:00pm--- Food Box Assembly
- October 10 Sat 1:00pm ---Food Box Distribution
- October 11, 2026, King's Kids 5:30pm-7:30pm
- October 12 Mon 6:45--- Church Council (Ad Board)
- October 13 Tues. 12:00 Ladies Luncheon Mooses'
- October 15 Newsletter Articles Due for November
- October 17 Sat 10am-noon---NL Clothes Closet Community Shopping Day
- October 18 Homecoming Service at 10:00am, luncheon to follow
- October 19 Mon 6:30pm Trustees
- October 21 Wed. 8am-11pm Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Shopping Day
- October 29 Trunk or Treat 6-8pm

NAR-ANON: A group meeting at the church on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 6:30pm known officially as "Nar-Anon Family Groups", is a twelve-step program for friends and family members of those who are affected by someone else's addiction.



Ponder...continued...from Page 1

Joseph (not his real name) was the model of a trusted military officer. He became a colonel in the special forces in his nation's army. This presented great opportunities for both good and bad.

He was deployed into a region full of drug trafficking, but Joseph became intent on bringing justice to this plagued area. He and his troops began dealing with the criminals to protect the people. Some of his superiors, who were taking bribes, ordered Joseph to turn his head and let the drugs continue. Joseph refused, continued his efforts, until he was finally arrested and imprisoned for eight years-for doing good.

Crowder concluded by saying: As Joseph shared the stories of what God taught him in prison, I learned that the justice of God is not hampered by the evil of men. Doing good is still pleasing in His sight-even when we are mistreated by the world for it **BE A DO GOODER**

CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Tuesday evenings on October 6, 13, 20 and 27 - 6:30-7:30pm

Please join me for prayer. We will have a short devotion, and then we will spend time with our Father. Personal prayer, prayer for our country, our community, our church family, and each other.

It will be ALL of our time with Him. Teri Light



THE ROCK BAND: *With Lori Jackson, Tuesdays continuing on October 6, 13, 20 and 27 **5:30pm- 7:00pm*** - The Rock Band Bible Study group meets most Tuesday nights 7pm- 8:30pm. **Teens 12 & up and adults welcomed.** Please make sure to text Lori Jackson if you decide to meet with us- we might be at the church, a park, a coffee house, on a hike

or poolside. Our next study is based on a book by singer/songwriter Matthew West, "**Don't Stop Praying: The God Who Hears Is Just a Breath Away**" (2026), a 40-day devotional and prayer journey that encourages readers to build a deeper, more consistent prayer life.

WANTED: Where and how will you serve Jesus this year in the ministry of our Congregation?

We are all part of the Body of Christ if we have given our life over to Him. To declare Jesus "LORD" is to acknowledge He is LORD of each of us. Perhaps you've known someone who has had a stroke or has not utilized a part of their body to its capacity because of some illness or restriction – that part affected by having lost connection with the "head" or the atrophy that has taken place from not being used leaves that treasured part of the body out of commission.

Has God been tugging at your heart to serve in some area within the church or out in mission in the community that you have yet to say "yes" to? Is there some area that God's been speaking to you to be a part of? There are all types of ministries/opportunities that we are seeking to know who God's been speaking to. For example:

We need people interested in developing a process for securing, training, and engaging people into the various ministries and missions of our congregation. [Our Lay Leadership Team]

Someone interested in New Ministries/Missions God has put on your heart????

Ladies Luncheon at Mooses' Landing Zone on Tuesday, October 13th at 12:00. All ladies welcome. Meet at the church at 11:30 to carpool, or drive to the restaurant for 12:00 reservation. Sign up in the narthex. See Pam Gray if questions.



Proverbs 9:11 “For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.”

Proverbs 18:22 “He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord.”

Psalms 118:24 “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

7 Maria -Ault
 9 Ken Fortna, Jr.
 10 Steven Clark
 14 Jim Mowry
 18 Drew Bene
 20 Nathan Rhoads
 22 Karen Bene
 28 Michael Slade
 29 Karen Boltz
 30 Nathan Hess
 30 Charles Rickard
 31 Brenda Rudy
 31 Oriana Spittle



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

2 Jeff & Diana Waltermeyer
 10 Brian & Amy Sell
 10 Gary & Joy Wolfe
 12 Gary & Dawn Miele
 15 Joe & Karen Bene

PASTOR AN'S OCTOBER SERMONS

Sunday October 4 Scripture: Exodus 20:1-11 Sermon Title: The Freedom of Obedience

Sunday, October 11 Scripture: Philippians 4:4-9 Sermon Title: Think About These Things

Sunday, October 18 Scripture: Ephesians 2:19-22 Sermon Title: Welcome Home

Sunday, October 25 Scripture: Psalm 90:1-12, 17 Sermon Title: Teach Us to Number Our Days

We encourage all who are able to read the Scripture each week ahead of time, pray over it, and come with open hearts as we continue to grow together in faith.

E-GIVING: If you would like to donate your tithes or offerings to our church electronically, you can do so through our e-giving system. The system can be used for a one-time donation, such as a special event, or for recurring ones, such as weekly contributions.

Access the e-giving site by clicking on the burgundy E-Giving button at the top right of the church's website, www.jonestownumc.org. Or access directly at the following address:

<http://www.jonestownumc.org/egiving.html>.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:

Scripture Reading
 Streaming/video/PowerPoint
 Church Decorating for various seasons
 King's Kids/Children's Ministries---
 Volunteer

Serving on leadership teams
 Staff Parish Relations
 Nominations/Lay Leadership
 Trustees
 Outreach

King's Kids/Children's Ministries
 NL Clothing Closet/JOY Pantry
 For any further info on any of these opportunities, send a note to: info@jonestownumc.org

October 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	2 JOY Pantry 10am-12 LCCM Noon Meal Ladies Night Out 6-9	3
4 Communion Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	5 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	6 JOY Pantry 10am-12 The Rock Band 5:30-7 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm	7	8 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	9 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Food Box Packing 6:00pm	10 Food Box Distribution 1:00pm
11 Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am King's Kids 5:30-7:30pm	12 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ad Board 6:45pm Ripped 7:00pm	13 JOY Pantry 10am-12 The Rock Band 5:30-7 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm Ladies Luncheon at Mooses' 12:00	14	15 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	16 JOY Pantry 10am-12	17 NL Clothing Closet Community Shopping 10:00am-1:00pm
18 HOMECOMING Service 10:00am LUNCHEON to follow No Sunday School	19 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	20 JOY Pantry 10am-12 The Rock Band 5:30-7 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm	21 Bosco's Friends Helping Friends Shopping Day 8am-11pm	22 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	23 JOY Pantry 10am-12	24
25 Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	26 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	27 JOY Pantry 10am-12 The Rock Band 5:30-7 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm	28	29 JOY Pantry 4-7pm Trunk or Treat 6-8	30 JOY Pantry 10am-12	31